NHDES WETLANDS

PERMIT PLANNING TOOL

USER GUIDE

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)

Water Division

Land Resources Management

Wetlands Bureau

Purpose:

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Wetlands Permit Planning Tool (WPPT) is an online mapping program that will provide users with a wide array of information at their fingertips, including data and information on inland and coastal resources, to help NHDES Wetlands Permit applicants visualize and better understand the potential resource impacts of a project. The WPPT will assist in understanding the potential impact of a project on water quality, the presence of wildlife and fishery habitat, plus the general suitability of a particular site for development. It gives users the ability to envision their project or their property in a landscape context.

The WPPT is designed to assist in determining whether a project, based on its location or layout, would trigger a particular permitting process. The revised Wetlands Bureau Administrative Rules require applicants to review certain map screening layers For example, if a project is located within a Designated River Corridor or a municipally-designated Prime Wetland then it would be subject to a different level of technical review and may require a different set of application materials. The information to make that determination is readily available in the Layer List, located under the Resource Planning and Priority Resource Area groups.

Disclaimer:

- This tool is intended to be used for screening purposes only and it was not designed, nor does it have the accuracy, to determine the precise location of wetland features or setbacks.
- The data presented is under constant revision and may not depict the most up to date information.
- NHDES is not responsible for the use or interpretation of this data. It is not intended for legal purposes.
- All information is subject to verification.
- These data are to be used for planning purposes only, distribution is discouraged.

Metadata:

Every user is required to read the metadata completely before using the data.

For all NHDES managed data layers, metadata is available at:

https://www.des.nh.gov/onestop/data-mapper.htm

For NH GRANIT map services, additional information, data downloads and metadata can be found at:

http://www.granit.unh.edu/

System Requirements:

The WPPT is compatible with the following browsers (current versions recommended):

Desktop Browsers	Mobile Browsers
Google Chrome	Safara on iOS 9+
Mozilla Firefox	Chrome on Android
Microsoft Edge	
Microsoft Internet Explorer 9.0+	

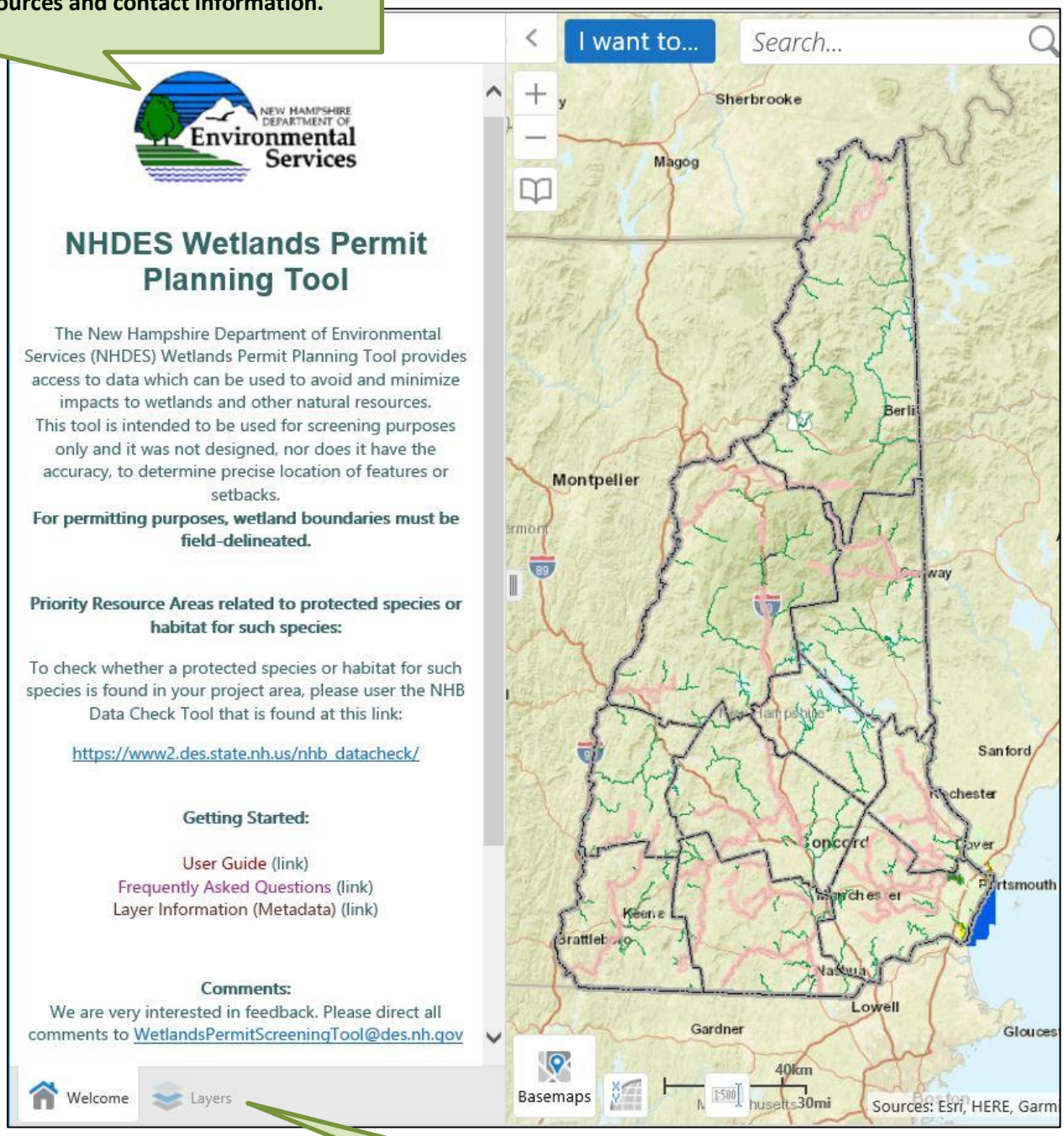
For inquiries or more information, please contact: WetlandsPermitScreeningTool@des.nh.gov

Table of Contents

Getting Started: The NHDES Wetlands Permit Planning Tool (WPPT)

The Welcome panel, on the left-hand side of the screen, contains links to helpful resources and contact information.

- Before accessing the Wetlands Permit Planning Tool, the user must read and acknowledge the disclaimer screen.



Select the Layers tab at the bottom of the Welcome panel to access the 60+ data layers included with the Wetlands Permit Planning Tool.

Organization & Function

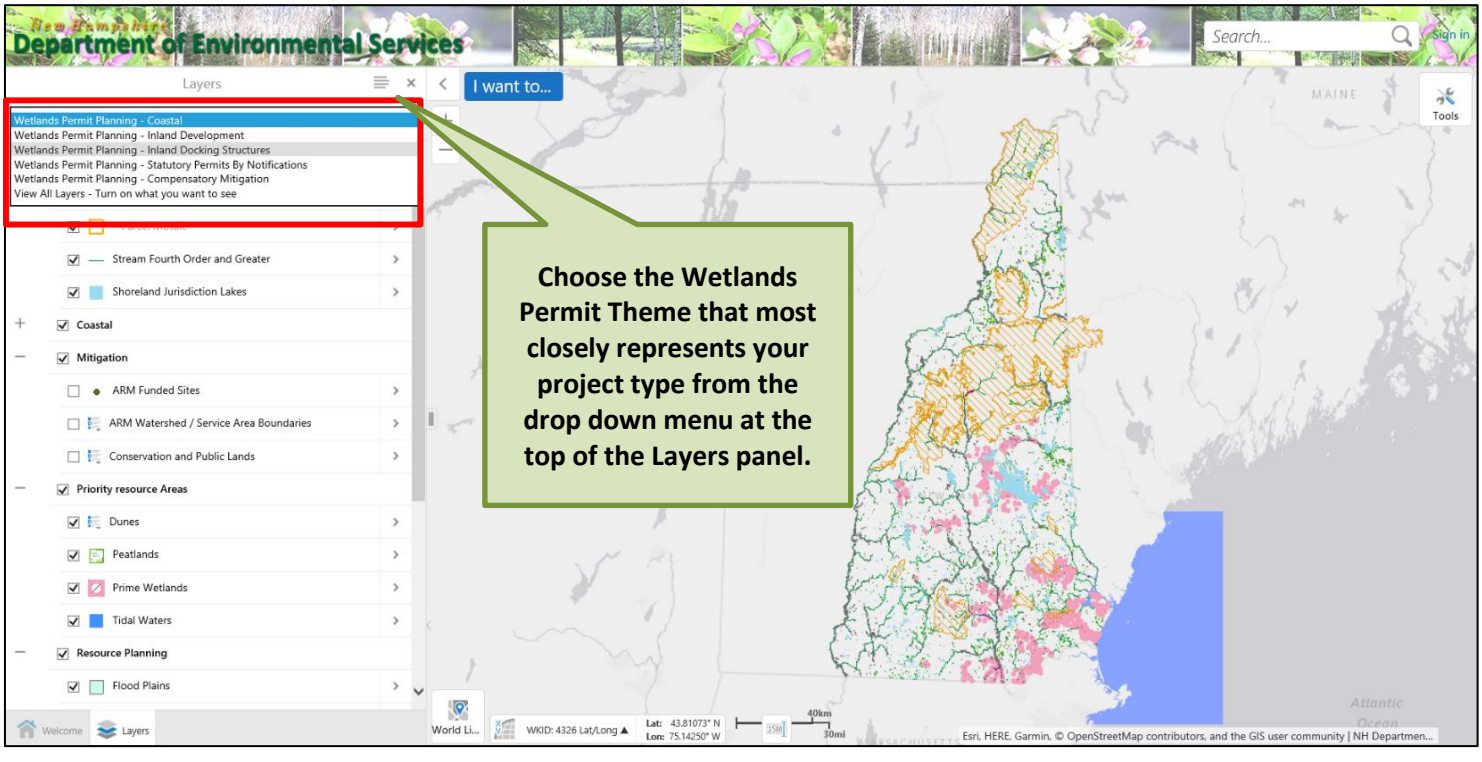
Selecting a Wetlands Permit Theme

❖ Themes have been designed to guide the user to the information that is relevant to their particular project type.

For example: An Inland Development project does not typically need to reference coastal information, so the set of coastal data layers is omitted from the Inland Development Theme. This is intended to facilitate navigation and usability of the WPPT to those particular project types.

Note: The default Theme includes all of the available data layers

Coastal	For projects that will impact tidal wetlands or fall within the upland tidal buffer zone. *For Example*: Residential or commercial development or redevelopment in the TBZ, municipal projects that fall within the TBZ, accessory structure construction within the TBZ, etc.
Inland Development	For projects that will impact freshwater wetlands, rivers or streams. *For Example*: Residential or commercial development, stream crossings for public roadways or private driveways, bank stabilization, agricultural operations, beaches, pond construction, etc.
Inland Docking Structures	For projects that propose docking structures on freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers or streams.
Statutory Permits by Notification	For projects that qualify for the Permit by Notification (PBN) permitting pathway. *For Example*: maintenance or repair of existing structures, maintenance dredging of man-made ponds, residential utilities, dry hydrant installation, retaining wall repair or replacement
Compensatory Mitigation	For projects that are proposing compensatory mitigation for a major impact project.
Forestry	For projects proposing impacts under the NHDES Wetlands Forestry Notification.



Layer Organization

❖ The WPPT layers are organized into five groups. Within each group, layers are listed individually or in sub-groups of related layers. For an A-Z layer list, see Appendix I.

Basemap Layers

- NH State Boundary
- NH County Boundary
- NH City/Town Boundary
- NHDES Wetland or Shoreland Permits
- Parcel Mosaic

Coastal Layers

- Eelgrass
- Shellfish
- Tidal Waters
- Predicted Salt Marsh Migration
- Predicted Sea Level Rise

Mitigation Layers

- ARM Funded Sites
- ARM Service Area Boundaries
- Conservation and Public Lands

Priority Resource by Rule Layers

- Dunes
- Peatlands
- Prime Wetlands
- Floodplain Wetlands Adjacent to Tier 3 Streams
- Tidal Waters

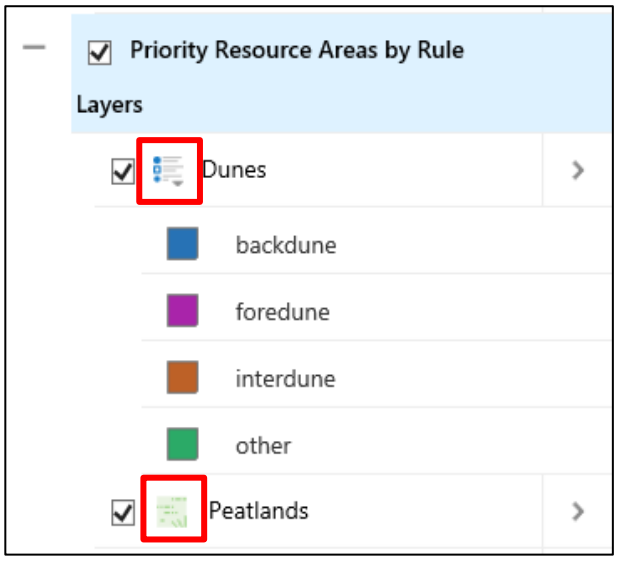
Resource Planning Layers

- Potentially Contaminated Sites & Remediation Sites
- Impaired Watersheds
- Designated River Corridors
- Outstanding Resource Watersheds
- National Wetlands Inventory
- Wildlife Action Plan Layers
- FEMA Floodplains
- Hydric Soils
- Soil Drainage Classification
- Watershed Drainage Area (sq. mile)

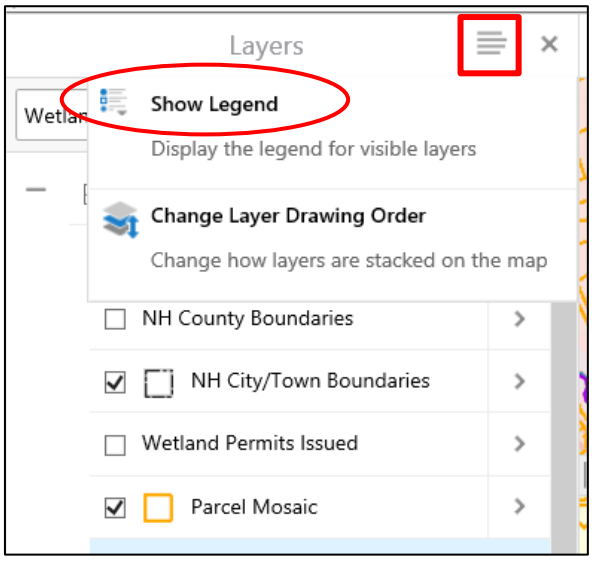
*****If any layers intersect your project area, then review [New Hampshire Administrative Rule Chapter Env-Wt] for regulations relative to those areas and your particular project.*****

Legend:

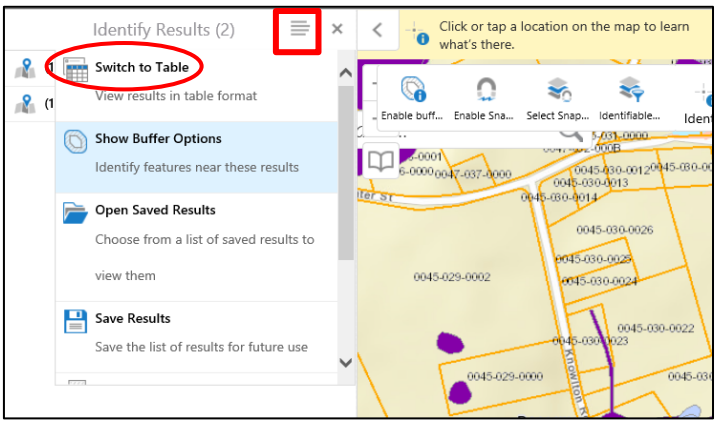
- Symbology for all layers is visible in the Layers List either just to the left of the layer name, or by selecting the drop-down icon next to the layer name.



- Alternatively, to view the symbology for *visible layers only*, select the menu icon at the top of the Layers panel and chose Show Legend. You'll have to close the Legend (using the X icon) to get back to the Layers list.

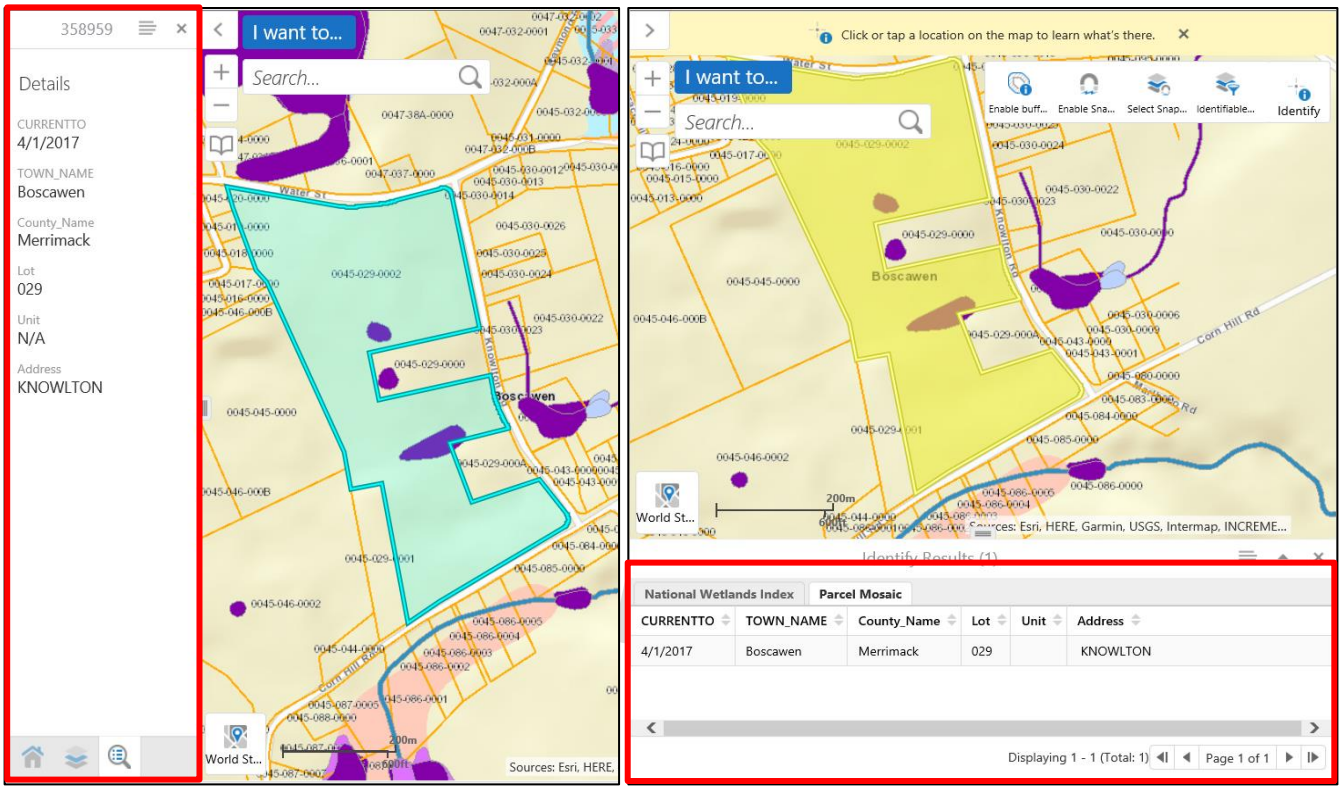


Tools: Select the *Tools* icon at the top right corner of the map to display the panel of available tools.

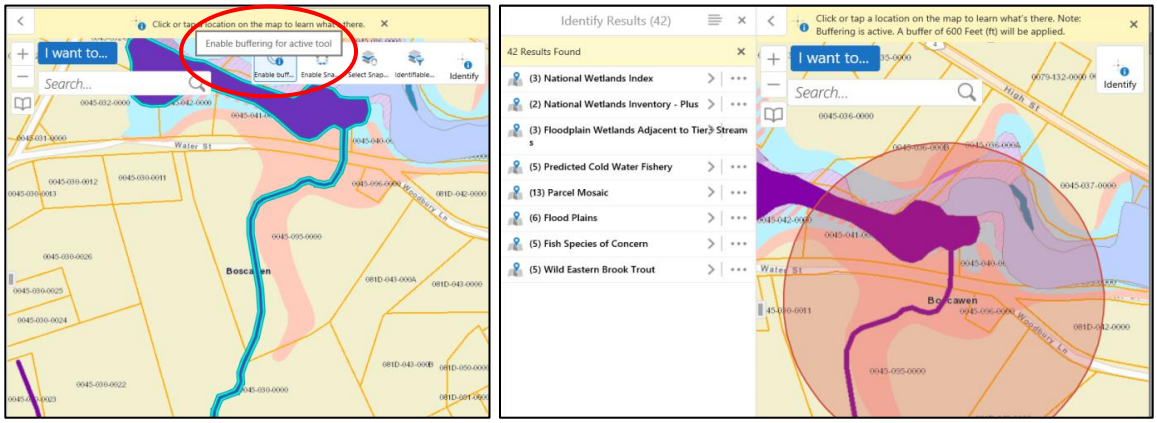


❖**Identify:** Use this tool to identify a particular feature on the map.

i. View results in the list panel, or switch to table-view to easily tab between results from multiple layers



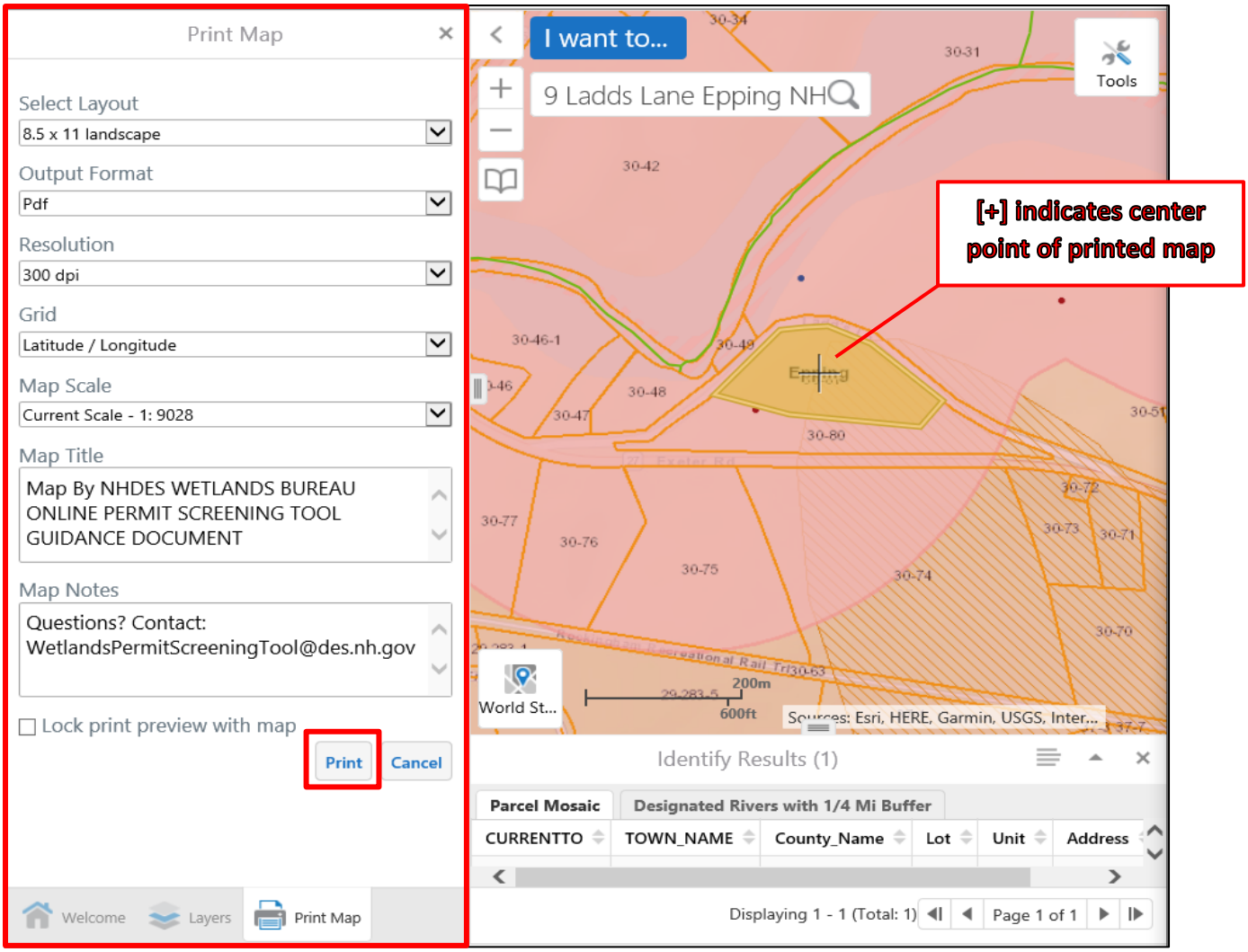
ii. Enable Buffering within a specified radius to identify features within the vicinity.



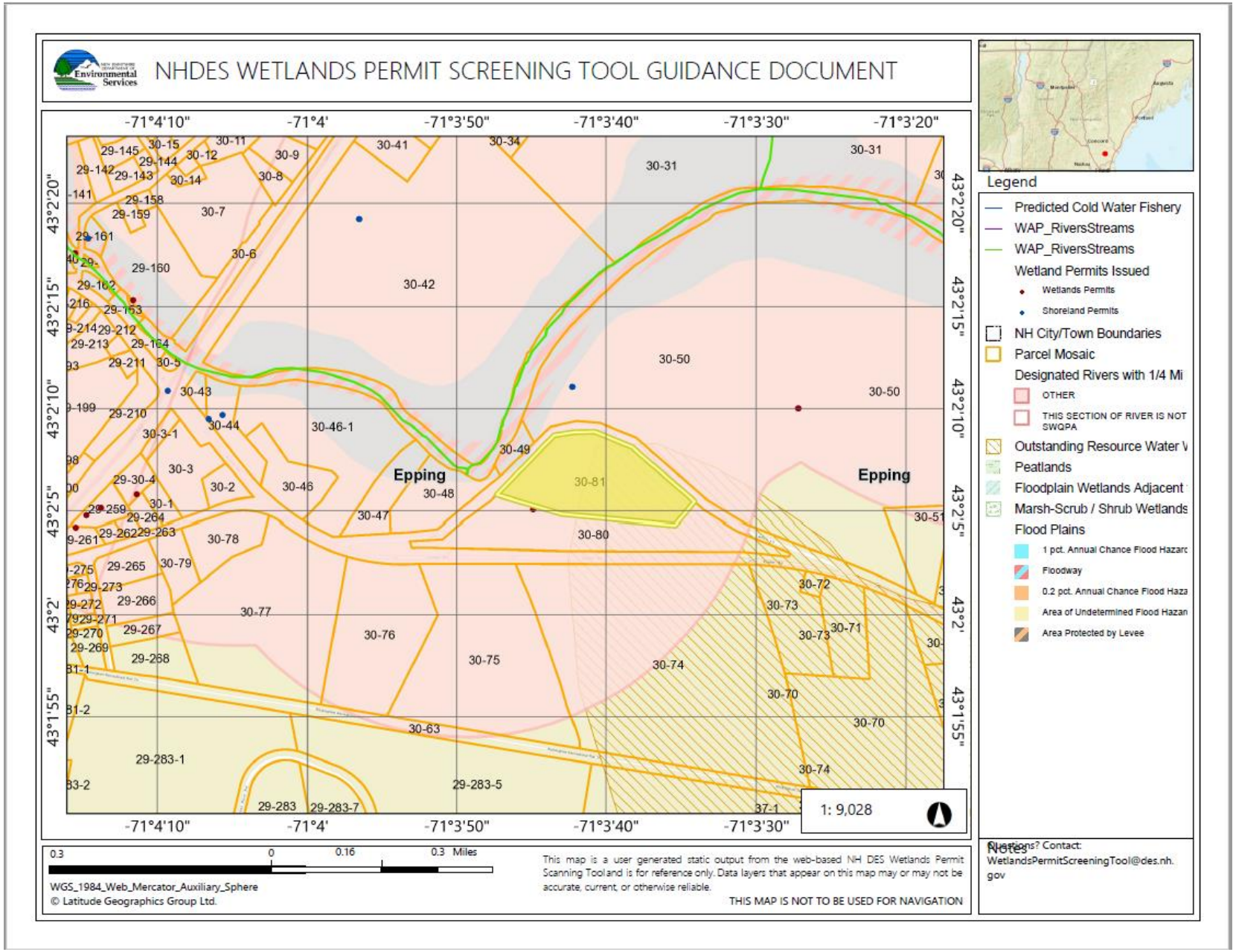
iii. For more information on the origin or limitations of a feature, field or attribute, locate and review the metadata for that particular data layer.

❖**Print:** To create PDF with proper map elements (legend, scale bar, north arrow, etc.)
Note: The extent of the printed area will default to the center point of the current view, so center your site within the visible map window or un-check the "Lock Print Preview With Map" option at the bottom of the Print panel to adjust.

i. Select *Print* from the Tools menu
ii. Select your Layout, Output Format (.pdf, .jpeg, etc.), Resolution, Grid preference and Map Scale
iii. Enter a Map Title and Map Notes, as appropriate for your purposes.
iv. Select *Print* to prepare the file then *Open File* to view it in the selected Output Format.



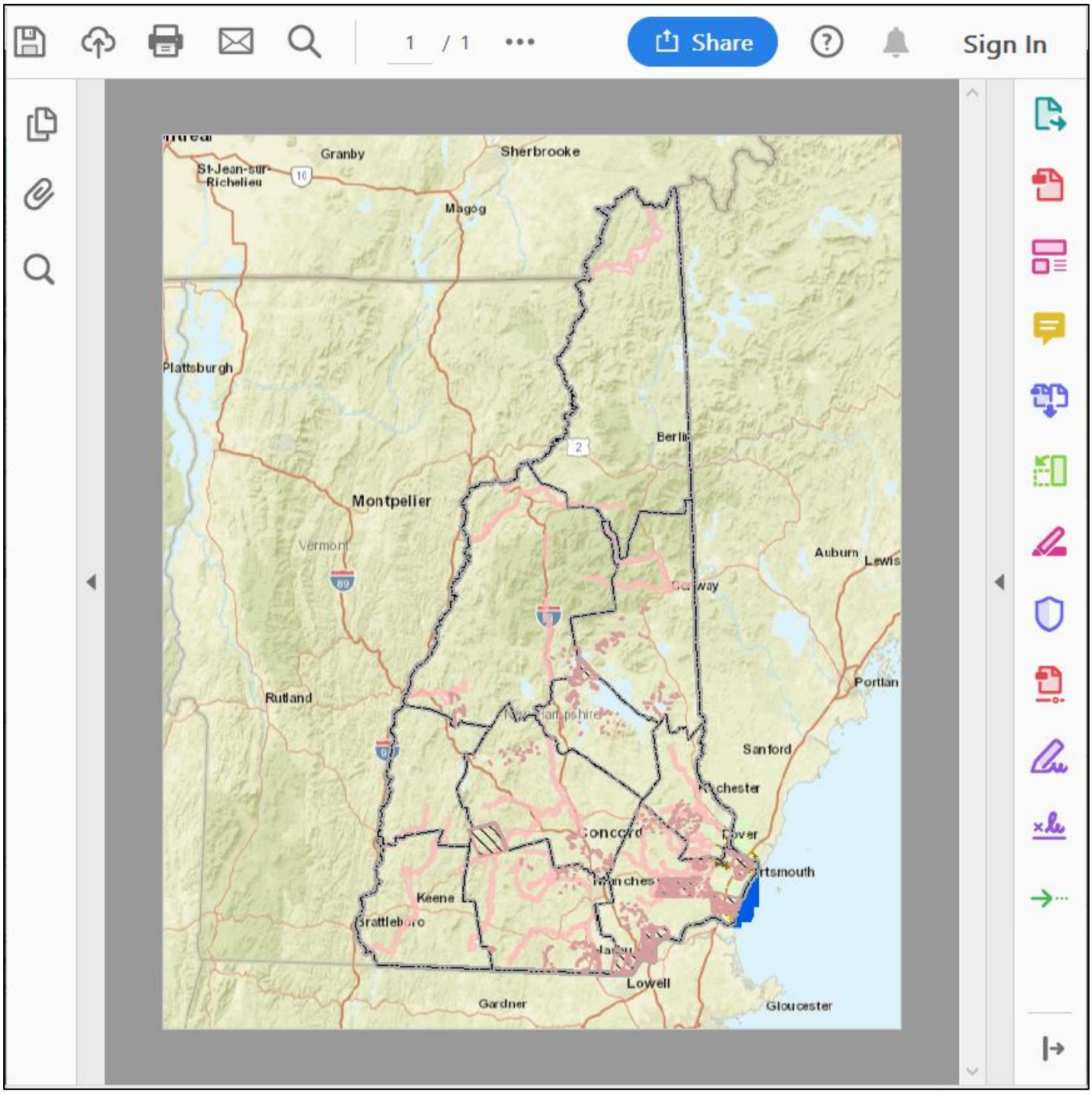
Example: Print-Tool (PDF Output Format)



❖**Export:** To quickly create a PDF or JPEG of your current view without any map elements

i. Select *Export* from the Tools menu.
ii. Choose your Image Format (i.e., PDF, BMP, JPEG, PNG, TIFF or GeoTIFF)
iii. Select *Create Image* and then *View Image*.

Example: Export-Tool (PDF Image Format)



Inland Docking Structures

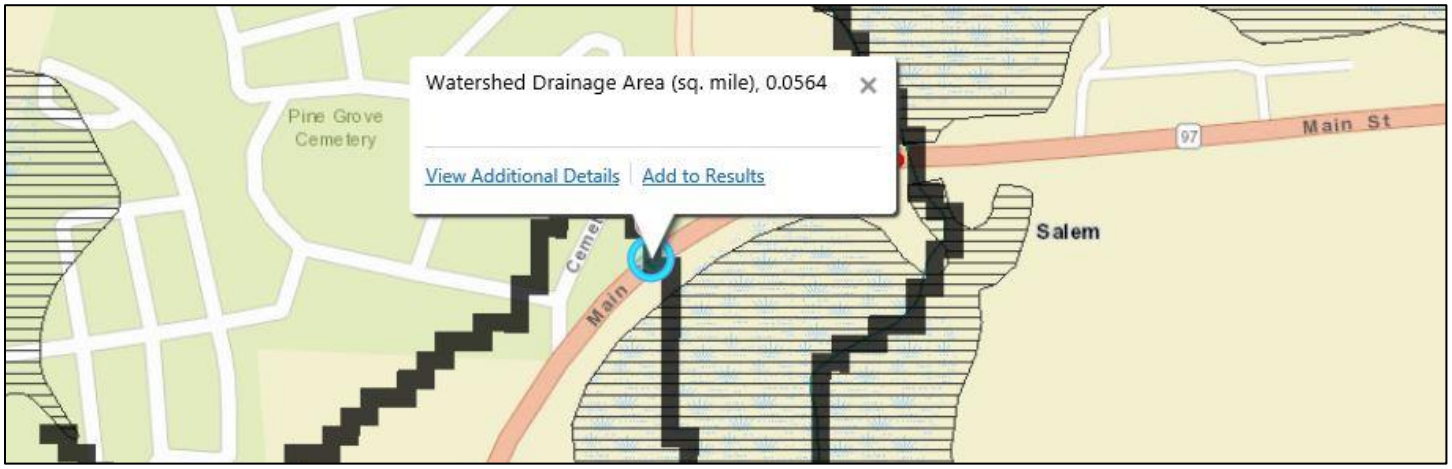
1. Open the NHDES Wetlands Permit Planning Tool.
2. Read the Disclaimer and select “Acknowledge.”
3. Read the Welcome panel and then select the Layers tab at the bottom of the panel.
4. From the drop-down menu at the top of the Layers panel, select the “Inland Docking Structures” theme.
5. Zoom to your location either manually or by entering your address into the search bar.
6. Explore the layer list to review what types of resources are in the vicinity of your project. For detailed information on the data properties and use limitations, be sure to review the pertinent metadata files.
7. For Example:
    a. Basemap layer group > NHDES Wetlands of Shoreland Permits
        i. Note if any other Wetlands or Shoreland permits have been issued on or in the vicinity of your project location.
        ii. Use the “Click for OneStop Search” link in the pop-up box to access the permit information.
    b. Priority Resource Areas by Rule layer group > Prime Wetlands
        i. If your project is located within a municipally-designated Prime Wetland or Prime Wetland Buffer (where applicable, in red), then your project may be elevated to a higher level of review.
    c. Resource Planning layer group >
        i. Become aware of the natural resources in the vicinity of your project. If your project is located within or adjacent to either of these, then you should be considering alternatives to avoid and minimize impacts to those nearby resources.
        ii. If your project is located within a Designated River Corridor, then the Local River Advisory Committee must be notified of your project if/when you submit an NHDES Wetlands Permit application.

Structure Construction in the Tidal Buffer Zone

1. Open the NHDES Wetlands Permit Planning Tool.
2. Read the Disclaimer and select “Acknowledge.”
3. Read the Welcome panel and then select the Layers tab at the bottom of the panel.
4. From the drop-down menu at the top of the Layers panel, select the “Coastal” theme.
5. Zoom to your location either manually or by entering your address into the search bar.
    a. Hint: Select the bookmark icon and choose “Coastal” to get a broad view of the entire coastal region.
6. Explore the layer list to review what types of resources are in the vicinity of your project.
    a. For detailed information on the data properties and use limitations, be sure to review the pertinent metadata files.
7. For Example:
    a. Basemap layer group > NHDES Wetlands of Shoreland Permits
        i. Note if any other Wetlands or Shoreland permits have been issued on or in the vicinity of your project location.
        ii. Use the “Click for OneStop Search” link in the pop-up box to access the permit information.
    b. Coastal Layer group >
        i. Eelgrass and Shellfish: Impacts in or adjacent to these areas must be avoided and minimized.
        ii. Predicted Salt Marsh Migration and Sea Level Rise: Explore these layers to assess potential risk of the project from projected sea level rise and marsh migration. Structures in coastal areas should be designed for resiliency and to mitigate flood hazards to a certain degree, considering the expected lifespan of the project.
    c. Priority Resource Areas by Rule layer group >
        i. If your project is located within either of these areas, then your project may be elevated to a higher level of technical review.
    d. Resource Planning layer category >
        i. Become aware of the natural resources in the vicinity of your project. If your project is located within or adjacent to either of these, then you should be considering alternatives to avoid and minimize impacts to those nearby resources.
        ii. If your project is located within a Designated River Corridor, then the Local River Advisory Committee must be notified of your project if/when you submit an NHDES Wetlands Permit application.
        iii. Impaired Waters: projects located within these areas may need to address “no additional loading” criteria.

Stream Crossings

1. Open the NHDES Wetlands Permit Planning Tool.
2. Read the Disclaimer and select “Acknowledge.”
3. Read the Welcome panel and then select the Layers tab at the bottom of the panel.
4. From the drop-down menu at the top of the Layers panel, select the “Inland” theme.
5. Zoom to your location either manually or by entering your address into the search bar.
6. Explore the layer list to review what types of resources are in the vicinity of your project. For detailed information on the data properties and use limitations, be sure to review the pertinent metadata files.
7. For Example:
    a. Basemap layer group > NHDES Wetlands of Shoreland Permits
        i. Note if any other Wetlands or Shoreland permits have been issued on or in the vicinity of your project location.
        ii. Use the “Click for OneStop Search” link in the pop-up box to access the permit information.
        iii. Shoreland Jurisdiction sub-group: Determine if your crossing is on a river that is subject to the Shoreland Protection Act (4th order or greater). If so, then any disturbance within 250 feet of the ordinary high water mark may require an additional NHDES Shoreland Permit.
    b. Priority Resource Areas by Rule layer group >
        i. If your project is located within either of these areas, then your project may be elevated to a higher level of technical review.
    c. Resource Planning layer group >
        i. *Determine your watershed drainage area* with the Watershed Drainage Area (sq. mile) layer
            1. Hint: It may be helpful to turn off all other line layers so that the flow-line of the Watershed Drainage Area layer is easier to visualize.
            2. Click on the flow-line closest to the location of the proposed stream crossing for a pop-up box displaying the watershed drainage area at that point.



Resource Planning layer group (*continued*) >

ii. Become aware of the natural resources in the vicinity of your project. If your project is located within or adjacent to either of these, then you should be considering alternatives to avoid and minimize impacts to those nearby resources.

iii. Wildlife Action Plan layers group: If the river or stream being proposed to be impacted contains fish species of concern or possible presence of Eastern Brook Trout, then consultation with NH Fish and Game will be necessary, followed by possible time of year restrictions conditioned by the NHDES Wetlands Permit in order to avoid and minimize adverse impact to brook trout during the spawning and nesting seasons.

iv. FEMA Floodplains: If the subject river or stream is located within a 100 year floodplain or fluvial erosion hazard zone, then it may be classified as a Tier 3 and subject to those design criteria.

Question: Does my neighbor have a permit?

1. Open the NHDES Wetlands Permit Planning Tool.
2. Read the Disclaimer and select “Acknowledge.”
3. Read the Welcome panel and then select the Layers tab at the bottom of the panel.
4. From the drop-down menu at the top of the Layers panel, select the “Inland” theme.
5. Zoom to your location either manually or by entering your address into the search bar.
6. Basemap layer group > NHDES Wetlands of Shoreland Permits
    a. Look for a red or blue point in the vicinity of the work that’s going on. If there’s a point then that indicates an NHDES Wetlands or Shoreland permit is associated with that site.
    b. Use the “Click for OneStop Search” link in the pop-up box to access the permit information.
    c. Note: This layer is updated frequently on the WPPT, but does not represent real-time information. If you do not see a permit point it is possible that one may have been issued since the last WPPT update. Otherwise, please use the NHDES Land Resources Management Complaint Form to report alleged violations.

APPENDIX I: A-Z Layer List

Data Layer	Group > Sub-group Location Within WPPT Layer List
A	
Aboveground Storage Tanks	Resource Planning > Potentially Contaminated Sites
ARM Funded Sites	Mitigation
ARM Watershed / Service Area Boundaries	Mitigation
Asbestos Disposal Sites	Resource Planning > Potentially Contaminated Sites
Automobile Salvage Yards	Resource Planning > Potentially Contaminated Sites
B	
C	
City/Town Boundaries	Basemap
Cold Water Fishery, Predicted	Resource Planning > Wildlife Action Plan Layers
Conservation and Public Lands	Mitigation
County Boundaries	Basemap
D	
Designated River Corridors	Resource Planning
E	
Eelgrass, Historic Bed Locations	Coastal > Eelgrass Layers
F	
FEMA Floodplains	Resource Planning
Fish Species of Concern	Resource Planning > Wildlife Action Plan Layers
Floodplain Wetlands Adjacent to Tier 3 Streams	Priority Resource Areas
G	
H	
Hazardous Waste Generators	Resource Planning > Potentially Contaminated Sites
Hydric Soils	Resource Planning
I	
Impaired Watersheds	Resource Planning > Impaired Waters
Impaired Watersheds, Chloride Impairements	Resource Planning > Impaired Waters
J	
K	
L	

Data Layer	Group > Sub-group Location Within WPPT Layer List
M	
Marsh / Scrub-Shrub Wetlands	Resource Planning
N	
National Wetland Inventory	Resource Planning
NPDES Outfalls	Resource Planning > Potentially Contaminated Sites
O	
Outstanding Resource Watersheds	Resource Planning
Oyster Restoration Sites	Coastal > Shellfish Layers
P	
Parcel Mosaic	Basemap
Peatlands	Priority Resource Areas
Permits, NHDES Wetlands or Shoreland	Basemap
Prime Wetlands	Priority Resource Areas
Q	
R	
Remediation Sites	Resource Planning > Potentially Contaminated Sites
S	
Salt Marsh Migration, Predicted Scenarios	Coastal > Predicted Salt Marsh Migration
Sand Dunes	Priority Resource Areas
Sea Level Rise (SLR) over Mean Higher High Water (MHHW), Predicted Scenarios	Coastal > Sea Level Rise over Mean Higher High Water
Shellfish Beds, Current	Coastal > Shellfish Layers
Shoreland Jurisdiction, Lakes	Basemap > Shoreland Jurisdiction
Shoreland Jurisdiction, Rivers	Basemap > Shoreland Jurisdiction
Shoreland Jurisdiction, Urban Exemption Areas	Basemap > Shoreland Jurisdiction
Soil Drainage Classification	Resource Planning
Solid Waste Facilities	Resource Planning > Potentially Contaminated Sites
State Boundary	Basemap
T	
Tidal Waters	Priority Resource Areas; Coastal
U	
Underground Storage Tanks	Resource Planning > Potentially Contaminated Sites
V	

Data Layer	**Group > Sub-group Location Within WPPT Layer List**
W	
Watershed Drainage Area (sq. miles)	Resource Planning
Wild Eastern Brook Trout	Resource Planning > Wildlife Action Plan Layers
Wildlife Action Plan, Habitat Landcover	Resource Planning > Wildlife Action Plan Layers
Wildlife Action Plan, Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat	Resource Planning > Wildlife Action Plan Layers
X	
Y	
Z	